

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18-29 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18-29 are rejected. Claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 16, 20 and 26 are amended herein to clarify the invention and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicants herein traverse and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and objection cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano Winter Olympics '98 (Nagano) in view of Links 386 CD Players Manual. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano Winter Olympics '98 (Nagano) in view of Links 386 CD Players Manual, in further view of Yamada et al. (US 6,149,523). Applicants herein respectfully traverse these rejections.

The applicants and applicants' attorney appreciate the Examiner's granting of the telephone interview conducted on July 31, 2003, and extend their thanks to the Examiner for his time and consideration.

Although no agreement was reached regarding precise claim language deemed to define over the art of record, it was generally agreed that the feature in accordance with the present invention by which progressively greater difficulty levels were reflected by a corresponding progressive increasing in size of a mark is

not taught by the Links reference. Rather, as pointed out in the course of the interview, the reference merely indicates, for example at page 33, that after a threshold is reached (yellow mark reaches the 12 o'clock mark) timing of the shot will thereafter be critical. Such disclosure does not state that the criticality of making the snap becomes more and more (i.e., progressively) sensitive, by degree, in the region past the 12 o'clock threshold. As such, the Examiner indicated that, although allowance of the claims over the art would be subject to approval by his supervisor and/or require a further search, such feature, if positively recited in the claims was believed to distinguish over the cited art of record. The independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 26 are so amended herein, and are therefore now submitted as being in condition for allowance.

During the interview, it was further pointed out by applicants' counsel that the subject matter of claims 5, 15 and 20, directed to setting a landing setting display area for setting the landing of the play character in a partial area of the game screen image, setting a landing success zone in the landing setting display area, displaying a landing mark which is movable, and enabling landing of the play character through operation of a fourth operable member provided in the operation unit when the landing mark is located within the landing success zone, was nowhere to be found in the disclosure of Links 386. The Examiner indicated that, upon reconsideration, it would appear that applicants' analysis was correct. Claims 5, 15 and 20 have

therefore been rewritten in independent form, and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Thus, based upon the foregoing, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18-29 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Three (3) further independent claims in excess of three are added. Accordingly, please charge the fee of \$252 to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Applicants respectfully request a one (1) month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$110 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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